

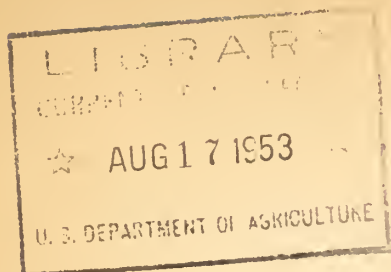
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



FIELD MEMORANDUM SCS # 1156

Re: Use of Forest Sites to  
Improve Conservation  
Planning of Woodlands.

May 28, 1953

TO ALL RANKING FIELD OFFICERS:

The development of a land capability classification system for cropland, range, and pasture was an important forward step in helping farmers and ranchers to understand soils, their use and treatment. In only one or two regions, however, has any real effort been made to refine or adapt this system so that it is of equal use as a planning tool on lands in or suited to tree crops. Since it is the policy of the Service to assist soil conservation districts and their cooperators in planning the use of their woodland within its capabilities, appropriate attention should be given to this problem.

To be useful, a land capability classification for woodlands should include the production potential of such lands in terms of wood products. Whether or not the land should be devoted to woodland use, the kind and amount of management work that it is economically feasible for the land owner to do, and frequently the appropriate woodland practices needed, will depend upon a reliable determination of this production potential. Consequently, within a given climate, the site factors that affect tree growth should be determined. The evaluation of these factors and their use in the delineation of forest sites of similar potential productivity should furnish a satisfactory basis for the classification of woodlands according to capability.

The Regional Director and his staff should provide the necessary leadership through the Soils and Woodland Specialists in developing techniques for correlating soils information with forest sites. To facilitate Service-wide progress in the pioneer stages of this important work, this office and the other regions should be kept informed of useful leads and methods as they are developed.

*W. H. M. S. L. T.*

